

Community Rallies to Help Mid Lane Cares

The coronavirus could not have struck at a worse time for Mid Lane Cares (MLC), the local nonprofit that has helped Fern Ridge area residents to meet food and other basic needs for 50 years. The statewide stay-at-home orders forced MLC to cancel its two biggest fundraisers of the year, leaving it struggling to stay afloat as business closures and job losses loomed. It was also forced to suspend operations of the Fern Ridge Service Center at 2nd and Broadway.

The organization was already distributing three tons of food to 1,200 people each month through the Love Project Food Pantry as well as serving senior meals at the FRSC and through a Meals on

Wheels program. At the end of March, it lost more than \$46,000 in expected fundraising just as needs were expected to surge.

"Fortunately, generosity is alive and well in a time of crisis," said Veneta City Councilor and MLC Chair Pat Coy. A quick call to action and the community soon flooded MLC with individual donations large and small. Elmira High School's Ultimate Falcon contestants contributed more than \$9,400.

"People called and pledged a portion of their economic impact checks," explained Executive Director DeAnna Townsend. "Local businesses held fundraisers and donated proceeds of specific sales to the cause. The response has been amazing."

Today, MLC continues to meet basic needs while following safety protocols. "Working with LCOG, we're delivering more than 100 meals per day to Fern Ridge area seniors so they can remain safe in their homes," Townsend explained. Drivers follow a "no-contact" protocol to keep residents safe.

The Love Project Food bank is also practicing "no contact" drive-through service. "Families drive up, check in, and are directed to a loading dock where someone puts a prepacked food box in their car," Townsend continued.

"Our Love Project Emergency Food Pantry and our energy assistance programs are vital to the health and survival of

many of our neighbors in this community," Coy added. "We urge those who can contribute to make a donation, either in cash or in nonperishable foods, so we can continue supporting this community we love."

Financial contributions can be made by check to Mid Lane Cares and mailed to P.O. Box 344, Veneta, OR 97487. Tax deductible receipts can be mailed on request. To donate nonperishable food products or make other arrangements, or if you or someone you know are in need, contact Townsend at 541-556-4923.

"I know this community," said Coy. "It always comes through."

Tim Brooker 1949-2020

In Memory of former Mayor Timothy Brooker
The City of Veneta gratefully remembers its fifth Mayor, Timothy James Brooker, who passed away on Monday, March 2, at 70 years of age. Born Dec. 1, 1949 in Bedford, Indiana, Brooker spent years in public service, beginning with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War era. He moved to Veneta in 1986, was elected to the Veneta City Council from 1991 to 2016, and served as Mayor from April 1999 to Dec. 2008.

During Brooker's tenure, the City completed the 8th Street overpass and Jack Kelley Drive, brought a new wastewater treatment plant online, acquired the property for Territorial Park and the Bolton Hill Sports Complex, doubled the size of Fern Park, and hosted its first Earth Day Celebration.

Brooker is survived by his wife of 41 years, Inez L. Brooker, his stepson Joe and his wife, three grandchildren, and two brothers.

CIVIC CALENDAR May 2020		
All meetings held at City Hall unless otherwise noted		
2	City Wide Clean Up - POSTPONED	Date TBD
5	Planning Commission Meeting	6:30 p.m.
6	Park Board Meeting - CANCELLED	
10	Happy Mother's Day	<i>Mother's Day</i>
11	City Council Work Session	5:30 p.m.
11	City Council Meeting - followed by Urban Renewal Agency meeting	6:30 p.m.
21	Municipal Court - City Hall	8:30 a.m.
21	Budget Committee Meeting - followed by Urban Renewal Agency Budget Committee	5:30 p.m.
25	Memorial Day - City Hall Closed	Closed
25	City Council Meeting - CANCELLED	

Fern Ridge Corridor Project Moving Forward

In 2011, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) worked with a consultant team of engineers, specialists and environmental scientists to lead a study that engaged residents, businesses, and other local stakeholders to identify and prioritize improvements to the highway. The resulting Fern Ridge Corridor Plan was adopted in 2013. This Corridor Plan outlined preferred design alternatives and a set of safety and operational improvements.

Since 2013, ODOT has repaved, striped, provided bus turn outs and most recently built a turn lane at Ellmaker Rd. The current OR 126: Veneta to Eugene project will build on the work of the Corridor Plan to:

- Complete community outreach to confirm the public's preferred design for widening the highway between Veneta and Eugene.
- Identify natural and built environmental resources and assess the impacts of widening the highway, following the requirements in the National Environmental Policy Act, otherwise known as NEPA.
- Develop the design to support the NEPA process.
- Establish a project cost and construction phasing plan.

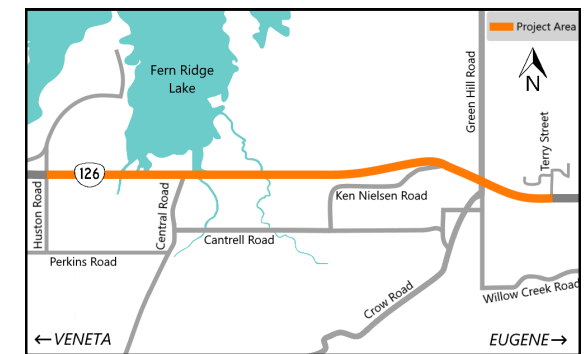
When work is complete ODOT will have a design that enhances safety and operations

along the corridor including providing passing opportunities, and a safe travel space for pedestrians and bicycles.

Your input is important to ensuring that the final project works for you and other residents within the community. ODOT will be hosting several community outreach events to hear from you. Public engagement opportunities will be posted on the City website and facebook page as

well as ODOT's website. You can follow ODOT's progress at this link <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/projects/pages/project-details.aspx?project=21231> which will also be on the City website.

For questions about the project, contact ODOT Public Information Officer, Angela Beers Seydel, Email: angela.beers-seydel@odot.state.or.us, Phone: 541-726-2442



Grocery Outlet to Host Job Fair

With plans to open its doors on June 25, Grocery Outlet on Jeans Road will soon hire 30 employees, including as-

sistant managers, cashiers, merchandisers, and team leads for its grocery, produce, health and beauty, deli, frozen, and meat and seafood departments. The company will host a job fair at the Veneta-Fern Ridge Chamber of Commerce, 24949 Hwy. 126 on May 21 and 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Candidates can find a universal job application by visiting groceryoutlet.com and selecting "careers." For information specific to the Veneta store, visit the recently launched Veneta Grocery Outlet Facebook page.

The Grocery Outlet Bargain Market chain bills itself as one of the na-

tion's largest "extreme value" retailers, offering "name-brand grocery items at up to 60 percent off conventional grocery store retail prices." The retailer offers everything from fresh meat and produce to natural and organic items, beer and wine, and household products.



This year's City-Wide Clean Up has been Postponed

The City will reschedule the clean up for later in the year, but that will all depend on the social distancing orders. Once we have a date rescheduled the City will be sure and get the information out to you.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN PROJECT

Virtual Open House

We want to hear from you!

Please tell us what additional amenities you would like at City parks.

- ⇒ Dog Park

⇒ Trails

⇒ Walking/Running Path

⇒ Covered Play Area
- ⇒ Warm Water Therapy

⇒ Performance Space

⇒ Nature Play

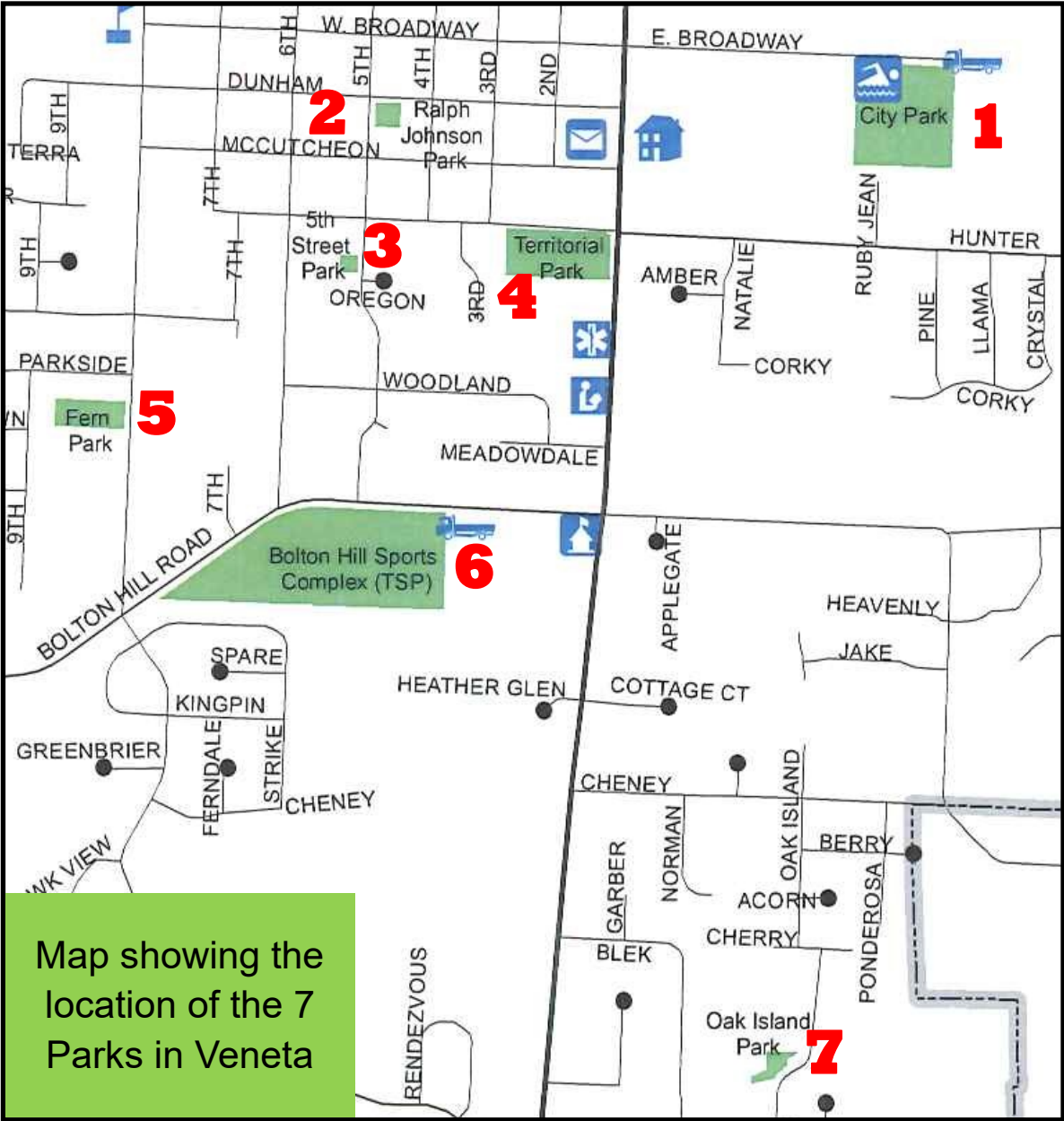
⇒ Or something else?

Please take the survey!

Use this link to take the survey:

https://qaz1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjbjMToS2x2vSLz

You can also find the link on www.venetaoregon.gov under “What’s New”



Map showing the location of the 7 Parks in Veneta

Current Park Amenities

1 City Park and Community Pool 25192 E Broadway St	2 Ralph Johnson Park Corner of 5th and Dunham Ave	3 5th St Park Between Hunter Ave and Woodland Ave	4 Territorial Park Corner of Territorial Hwy and Hunter Ave	5 Fern Park 8th Street South of Parkside Dr	6 Bolton Hill Sports Complex Bolton Hill Rd	7 Oak Island Park Oak Island Drive North of Perkins Rd
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Pool• Community Center• Playground• Covered Picnic Area• Walking Path• Lawn areas• Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• .25 Acre Park• Benches• Landscaped• Lawn Area• Picnic Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• .36 Acre Park• Playground• Lawn Area• Benches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.5 Acre Park• Skate Park• Playground• Climbing Wall• Lawn Area & Benches• Basketball Court• Walking Path	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Acre Park• Playground• Lawn Area• Wooded Setting• Benches• Portable Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11 Acres• Baseball/Softball diamonds w/backstops• Soccer fields• Concession Building• Picnic Tables• Portable Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• .47 Acre Park• Playground• Picnic Area• Foot Bridge• Bike Rack